



Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, July 24, 2018

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact TokyoMATT@state.gov.

HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks continued to give extensive coverage to the severe heat wave throughout Japan, with Fuji TV saying that more than 22,000 people have been taken to the hospital due to heatstroke.

INTERNATIONAL

Satellite images indicate North Korea has begun dismantling missile test site

All networks reported at noon that the U.S. research group "38 North" released on Monday its analysis of the latest satellite imagery of Sohae Satellite Launching Station in Tongchang-ri, North Korea. The group said that North Korea appears to have begun dismantling some key facilities there. According to the analysis, an image taken on July 20 shows cranes around a large building for assembling ballistic missiles, and an image taken two days later shows parts of the building being dismantled and placed on the ground nearby. The U.S. research group also reportedly pointed out that a large portion of a building at a ballistic missile engine test site has been dismantled. Noting that there had been no concrete moves by North Korea after President Trump said that North Korea had promised to dismantle its main missile test sites at the Singapore summit, the network said the U.S. research group believes this is an important step by North Korea to build trust with the U.S. since the facility has played an important role in North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile development.

- [Rosneft sues Japanese firms, others over Sakhalin project](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Suga: Japan will "closely watch the situation" involving the Strait of Hormuz](#) (Nikkei)
- [Expert: North Korea can't go backward either](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan names new ambassador to Egypt](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Japan feels helpless in dealing with U.S. protectionist policies](#) (Sankei)
- [Rosneft files \\$1.4 bn lawsuit against Sakhalin-1 participants](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe says Japan wants to accept more foreign workers from April](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't to launch pilot projects to solve rural problems using 5G](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

LDP policy affairs chief Kishida to forgo running in LDP presidential election

NHK reported online that LDP Policy Affairs Research Council Chairman Kishida has decided to forgo running in the LDP presidential election in September given the mounting issues that need to be addressed under Prime Minister Abe, such as diplomacy and disaster response. The network said Kishida is expected to support Abe if the prime minister decides to run for reelection.

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 23, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe, Ishiba clash over priority issues for LDP leadership race](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Creation of "disaster prevention ministry" emerges as issue in LDP presidential race](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Suematsu to be named vice minister of agriculture, forestry, and fisheries](#) (Asahi)
- [Editorial: Political parties should not accept business-as-usual discussions in Diet](#) (The Japan News)
- [EDITORIAL: Latest Diet session shows democracy failing in Japan](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gov't provides Y7.9bn in subsidies to eight political parties](#) (Sankei)
- [Cartoon: During the long hot summer, some pols left out in the cold](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet support rate drops 2.5 points, 62% are pessimistic about casinos, Sankei-FNN poll](#) (Sankei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Sankei Shimbun](#) (Sankei)
- [Pollees equally support Koizumi and Abe as next LDP president, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Opinion poll & results from Nikkei Digital](#) (Nikkei)
- [Kyodo News opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- [America-Japan Society hosts U.S. studies quiz contest for Japanese students](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Japan's health insurance system targeted by foreigners

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that a growing number of foreigners are obtaining Japanese health insurance cards in order to receive expensive medical treatment in Japan even though they have not paid any health insurance premiums. The program pointed out that only foreigners who are living in Japan to work or study or who are dependents of Japanese citizens are eligible to enroll in the health insurance system. The program said many foreigners are becoming dependents of

Japanese simply for the purpose of obtaining health insurance cards and there are companies that instruct them in how to do so.

SECURITY

- [USFJ extending helping hand to areas affected by torrential rains](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan sees cost for land-based missile defense doubling initial quote](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Think tank urges government to draft new national security strategy](#) (Yomiuri)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Group collects 65,926 signatures in support of holding referendum on Henoko relocation](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Ginowan junior high school students to depart for U.S. on short-term study abroad program](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
-

